99th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - House Document 99-175

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith for the consideration of the Congress proposed legislation, entitled the "Northern Ireland and Ireland Assistance Act of 1986," to provide support of the United States to the Anglo-Irish Agreement on Northern Ireland.

This legislative proposal calls for a five-year program of $250,000,000 that would be taken from a number of existing economic programs including Housing Guarantees and the Private Sector Revolving Fund, which are administered by the Agency for International Development, the investment insurance program of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Program.

In addition, the authorization of $20 million for the Economic Support Fund for 1987 is proposed, which will be within the total amount for that fund currently requested in the 1987 Budget. This would provide a cash contribution to an international economic development fund for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland under the auspices of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council. A supplemental appropriation request for 1986 for an initial contribution to this Anglo-Irish fund is concurrently being transmitted to the Congress.

I urge the Congress to act without delay on this important legislation. I am confident our efforts, together with those of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, will help to promote economic and social development in Ireland, thereby constructing a durable framework that would provide a promise of peace for the people of Northern Ireland.

RONALD REAGAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 4, 1986.*

A BILL To provide economic support for the Agreement Between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Northern Ireland and Ireland Assistance Act of 1986".

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SEC. 2. The Congress finds that the Agreement Between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom dated November 15, 1985, is a clear demonstration of British and Irish determination to make progress concerning the complex situation in Northern Ireland. The Congress strongly supports the Agreement reached by these two governments and is particularly encouraged that these two neighbors, faithful friends of the United States of America, have joined together to rebuild a land that has too often been the scene of economic and human misery. In recognition of our ties of kinship, history, and commitment to democratic values, the Congress believes that the United States should participate in this renewed commitment to social and economic progress in Northern Ireland and affected areas of the Republic of Ireland. To that end, the Congress finds that through the end of fiscal year 1990, $250,000,000 of development and economic resources and authority available under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 should be used to provide support to carry out the purposes of the Agreement, which will be implemented through the Intergovernmental Conference of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council and other appropriate agencies.

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE

SEC. 3. (a) In addition to other authorities contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or any other Act, the following authorities may be used to provide support and assistance to carry out the purposes of section 2 of this Act:

(1) Section 108 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (regarding the Private Sector Revolving Fund);

(2) Section 221 through 223 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (regarding the Housing Guaranty Program);

(3) Title IV of Chapter 2 of Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (regarding the Overseas Private Investment Corporation) without regard to the limitation contained in clause (2) of section 231 of that Act; and

(4) Section 661 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (regarding the Trade and Development Program).

(b) Assistance made available to carry out the purposes of this Act may be provided, for the purpose of implementing this Act, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

SEC. 4. In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year 1987 to carry out the provisions of chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated $20,000,000 to carry out such provisions with respect to Northern Ireland and affected areas in the Republic of Ireland.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

The bill, the "Northern Ireland and Ireland Assistance Act of 1986", expresses Congressional support for the agreement reached by the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland on November 15, 1985, which provides the promise of peace for the people of the area and commits those governments to a program to promote the economic development of Northern Ireland and affected areas of the Republic of Ireland. Section 2 of the bill sets forth a finding by the Congress that there should be a five-year program of economic assistance in support of that commitment, and that $250,000,000 of development and economic assistance resources and authority should be used for this purpose.

Section 3 authorizes use of AID's Private Sector Revolving Fund, the Housing Guaranty Program, activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Program as programs that could be used to provide economic assistance to Northern Ireland and Ireland. Economic aid appropriations and Export-Import Bank support for U.S. export sales to this area are also contemplated to meet this commitment. The actual amounts made available through each of the programs during the five year period will depend on future authorized levels of activity for each program and the number, size, and types of projects that are generated. Section 3(b) permits assistance authorized to carry out this Act to be used notwithstanding any other provision of law. This is not intended to affect the total amount of resources or credit authority available for the programs from which assistance will be provided.

In addition to these programs, Development and Economic Support Fund (ESF) assistance may also be provided. An additional $20 million of previously authorized Economic Support Fund assistance will be requested as a supplemental appropriation for FY 1986. Section 4 authorizes the appropriation of $20 million of ESF funds for FY 1987.

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